
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 8, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. GALLINGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 152.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred Senate bill 152, submit the following report:

Abel S. Chase, of Logansport, Ind., is 75 years old. He enlisted as a private volunteer in the Twenty-fourth Indiana Battery, under Capt. J. A. Sims, on the 29th day of November, 1862. He served until the 11th day of January, 1864, when he was honorably discharged by reason of disabilities incurred in the service. He is now drawing a pension at the rate of \$17 per month. He has made application twice to the Bureau of Pensions for an increase and has been twice rejected. It appears that during his service he was in hospital at New Albany and at Indianapolis, and was treated for rheumatism, chronic diarrhea, and disease of the eyes. He is still suffering from disease of the eyes (being very nearly blind), and especially from chronic diarrhea. It seems to have become continuous and incurable, the discharges occurring so frequently and so suddenly as to make his presence offensive and to make it very difficult for him to procure suitable board, lodging, and attendants. He also suffers from rheumatism, as he did at the time of his discharge. These facts are certified to by Capt. Alexander Hardy, of the Twenty-fourth Indiana Battery, and Joseph Guthrie, a private in the same command. The soldier is a man of no property whatever. He is wholly unable to labor. He has no means of support except his pension, as above stated.

The medical evidence, with respect to his present and past condition, fully sustains the above account of his disabilities, continuous, past, and present. Dr. Shultz, an old and very well-known physician of Logansport, Ind., testifies under date of November 28, 1894:

That he had known the claimant thirty years; that is, from 1864 to 1894; that he had treated him for chronic diarrhea and rheumatism, more or less, for every year; that he had been totally disabled from all manual labor for the past four years, and that he is a great burden to his friends, not being able to attend to himself as he should.

Dr. A. J. Hermann, of Logansport, Ind., under date of November 22, 1895, testifies:

That he has treated the claimant for chronic diarrhea, rheumatism, and conjunctivitis; that the claimant has been on crutches for the last three months and will never be able to do without them, owing to ankylosis of the joints; and that he is totally incapacitated from performing any kind of labor.

Dr. Nelson W. Cady, a physician of the same place, testifies, under date of the 20th of November, 1895, to his treatment of him in 1892 for rheumatism and chronic diarrhea, and describes his present condition as follows:

The right eye appears to be developing cataract. The vision of the left eye is a little better, but nevertheless defective. The fingers of his right hand are contracted en griffe. He complains much of rheumatism in the legs, and hobbles about on crutches. Considering his age, impairment of sight, the almost total uselessness of his right hand, and his rheumatism, it is my opinion that his disability is total and permanent.

The same state of facts as to the condition of the claimant is certified by a petition, very numerously signed, of the citizens of Logansport, Ind., where the soldier resides. This claim was rejected by the Department on the ground that the proofs did not show the incurrence of the disabilities in the military service and line of duty; but we are of the opinion, from the evidence laid before the committee, that the soldier was suffering from the diseases above named, though not in the same degree, at the time of his discharge from the service, in 1864, and that the medical testimony above referred to satisfactorily shows that he has been continuously treated, from the time of his discharge up to the present time, for the same diseases and disabilities, and that they are probably permanent and incurable.

Your committee therefore recommend the passage of the bill.

